

A FROLIC IN MEXICO

BREAKING THE PINATA DURING THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL.

This Mirth Provoking Pastime Is the Great Social and Fun Making Feature of the Season—Dressing and Filling the Olla.

Christmas in Mexico is not the typical Christmas of cold and snow and ice, but one of bright, warm sunshine, cloudless blue skies, flowers in profusion, trees in full foliage and a life of out of doors.

At least a week before Christmas in the principal streets of Mexico arches are erected from sidewalk to sidewalk, festooned with wreaths of flowers and bunting in the national colors—red, white and green. Under the arches booths are erected, and every toy manufactured in Mexico is on sale.

In every Mexican house great preparations are made for what is called the "pinata." Every child begs and scrapes and saves the centavos for weeks and months ahead. All kinds of articles are made especially for this ceremony, and every family vies with its friends and neighbors to have its pinata more beautiful and fanciful than any one else's.

The pinata is really an earthenware utensil which is in general use for cooking. It is called in common parlance an olla and is of brown pottery something like the old fashioned earthenware crocks used in the north before enamel ware became the fad.

The pinatas are large or small, as the purse of the purchaser permits. They are round, pot bellied and very large at the top. They are sold from door to door on the streets and in the markets. They cost only 10, 15 or 20 centavos, but the olla is the least expensive part of the game.

The body of the olla for a woman is covered with tissue paper; then a crinkled paper dress is fashioned; then a bodice is built up draped to represent a loose white waist, and above this is placed a false face. The hair is made with black paper, braided into one long plait at the back, as the women wear their hair in Mexico. Sometimes a white tehuana headdress is made of the lace paper used by bakers and confectioners.

A flower pinata is decorated with large paper flowers in every color of the rainbow. Red, white and green ribbons, forming long streamers, and silver and gold tinsel, glass balls and colored lights all help to make the flower pinata very beautiful. The possibilities for dressing these pinatas are endless. In a large family the mother and daughters have their own pinatas, and great secrecy is maintained in the decoration of the olla. It is the aim of each to devise as original a dressing for the pinata as possible, and it can be made a very extravagant ornament. In the families of wealthy Mexicans the luxury of the pinata often mounts into thousands.

After the olla is decorated to the taste it is filled. The filling consists of peanuts, hazel nuts, hard candies, like marbles, and all kinds of Mexican delicacies. These delicacies are candied fruits, nut paste, etc.

Christmas night the pinatas are carried in great state into the sala and suspended from the ceiling one at a time. All the relatives of the family are present, and as cousins of the fifth and sixth degree are recognized and children are very numerous there is generally a large gathering. They all sit very demurely on chairs ranged in a row around the walls of the room.

One person is constituted master of ceremonies, the eldest son or daughter of the house. He or she stands in the middle of the room. Near by is a jar or umbrella stand filled with aplaseco canes or sticks. When everything is ready a child or grown person is selected and called by name. She comes forward and is blindfolded.

Then the fun begins. The person blindfolded is turned round and round until she loses all knowledge of where the pinata hangs. A cane is put in her hands, and she is told to hit the pinata and try to break it. She is given three chances. If she fails to hit it she sits down amid laughter and ridicule. If she hits it without breaking it she is entitled to a small prize.

And so it goes on, one after another being called up, blindfolded and given a cane and three chances to break the pinata. Finally one more fortunate than the rest succeeds in giving a hard enough blow, and crash, the pinata falls to the ground in hundreds of bits, and its contents are scattered far and wide.

A wild scramble ensues. Everybody rushes forward to gather as much of the spilled contents as possible.

The fortunate breaker of the pinata gets a handsome prize and is awarded the seat of honor. He or she sits down and is debarré from another trial at breaking another pinata. As soon as the confusion dies down and order is somewhat restored another olla is hung up and the same routine gone through. So the fun continues until the last pinata is broken, and then the prizes are awarded.

The pinata party is the great social and fun making feature of the Christmas season. After the pinatas have been broken and a supper has been served there follows dancing, or a traveling company of Indians from the mountains is brought in to sing and dance in native costume.

These traveling Indians are somewhat like the singing bands which go around at Christmas time from house to house in England, Germany, France and Italy. They have been known and popular in Mexico from time immemorial. They are much in demand during the Christmas holiday season.—Kansas City Star.

DESERT SHEEP HERDERS.

Their Lonely, Dreary Life Tends to Drive Them Crazy.

Do you realize what it means to watch 5,000 sheep alone in the desert? You have read weird, gruesome stories of the horror of the solitary lighthouse keeper's life, but compared to the days of the Mexican shepherd those of the average keeper of the light are filled with gaiety and noise. Even with their one or two dogs the shepherds often go insane, and were it not for the company of their shaggy calves the lunacy among them would rise to an almost incredible percentage. If we are to believe those who have followed the sheep in the desert and therefore may be supposed to know.

Once in old Santa Fe, N. M., I met a man who for twelve years had followed the sheep. His work was done. All day long he sat in a chair in the rear of a little dove store, crouched over, gibbering to himself, beating—an idiot. He still saw his sheep away like a great white wave among the sagebrush, and ever in his ears sounded the killing monotone of their bleats. One boy, though fifteen years of age, is mentally no further advanced than the average child of five. His father is a shepherd, his mother died when he was four years old, and his father took him out upon the range. All his life has been spent among the sheep. He is one with them today.

How is it possible, then, you ask, that men are to be found willing to watch them? It is very easy. Sheep herding is a lazy job at best, and the "greaser" is the laziest creature on earth. For \$20 a month he is willing to sit in the sand and listen to the never ending bleating until the little mind he has given way and they fetch him in from the range insane. He is glad to take the chance for \$20 a month.

The greaser is not the only shepherd in the west. On the vast ranges of Nevada and Wyoming you may run across an occasional college professor. One, indeed, a college professor, ill of consumption, undertook to follow 5,000 bleaters for the summer. In autumn they found him insane, on his hands and knees among the sheep, bleating with them. Day after day his eyes beheld only a brilliant turquoise sky, in which hangs a sun of brass; an ocean sweep of sage dotted sand and a slowly moving, compact mass of sheep. His ears hear no sound save the steady "Baa, baa" day and night, affecting him as the Chinese criminal of ancient days was affected by the regular tap, tap of a hidden drum.

And yet so long as the desert continues to provide food for the "bleaters" so long will shepherds go mad among the flocks, and for ten years the desert's greatest value to man has been the food it has offered the sheep, nor yet is the store depleted.—Pilgrim.

The Wickedness of Growing Old.

Here are the three deadly symptoms of old age: Selfishness, stagnation, intolerance. If we find them in ourselves we may know we are growing old, even if we are on the merry side of thirty. But, happily, we have three defenses, which are invulnerable. If we use them we shall die young if we live to be a hundred. They are: Sympathy, progress, tolerance.

The first is the hardest to most of us, because our own little prison of the actual is so immensely important to us. There is no denying the fact that when you have a toothache yourself it is hard to have to consider other people's aches. But it can be done, though it generally involves physical effort, for we must bestir ourselves and act. The mere feeling of sympathy expressed by action is a poor, useless thing, but the soul, determined not to grow old, can force the body to such physical effort, though there is no denying that it is hard work.—Harper's Bazar.

Toothache.

Toothache is something to be dreaded. Until a dentist can be consulted and the exact cause of the disturbance located and professionally treated it is an excellent thing to moisten the finger and, after dipping it into some bicarbonate of soda, rub it on the gum round the sore tooth. It is also a relief to mix a teaspoonful of this bicarbonate of soda in half a glass of warm water and rinse the mouth with some every little while, holding a little in the mouth for a few seconds so that it penetrates all the crevices. The soda, being an alkali, serves to neutralize the acids in the mouth, which are often the cause of toothache.

Knew the Crowd.

A street preacher in a west of Scotland town called a policeman who was passing and complained about being annoyed by a certain section of the audience and asked him to remove the objectionable ones.

"Well, ye see," replied the cautious officer, "it would be a hard job for me to spot them, but I'll tell ye what I'd dae if I were you."

"What would you do?" eagerly inquired the preacher.

"Just gie round wi' the hat!"

His Line.

"Yes," said the lecturer, "I'm dealing in furniture these days."

"How is that?" asked a listener.

"Making one night stands under a lecture bureau, with the help of the time tables."—Baltimore American.

When to Cut Weeds.

She—When should a young widow discard her weeds? He—Oh, I don't know, but I suppose she should cut them out just as soon as she wants to raise a second crop of orange blossoms.—Baltimore Herald.

Decision of character will often give to an inferior mind command over a superior.—Wirt.

THE OLD PORTAGE ROAD.

Built by Pennsylvania With Material Brought From England.

For some time prior to 1800 travel across Pennsylvania had been in canoes and in river barges propelled by poles or along the shores of rivers by horse and foot and by intervening portages on Indian trails, connecting points on the different rivers. The Philadelphia-Pittsburg national pike was built upon such a substantial basis that wherever undisturbed and still stands the gracefully modeled masses of solid masonry almost intact after more than a century has passed. The completion of the Old Portage railroad by the state of Pennsylvania in 1834 put an end to the time honored "coach and six," with the many picturesque and commodious inns and taverns along the line of this broad macadamized toll road, which with its substantial construction was in point of endurance second only to the Roman military roads of Great Britain.

This Old Portage road was constructed from material brought from England. The British government sent over experienced engineers to instruct the Americans in the running of the stationary steam engines used upon the inclined planes of the road in the Allegheny mountains. The railroad's highest point was about 2,700 feet above sea level, being only 200 feet lower than the neighboring hill, which is the highest point of the Allegheny mountains in Pennsylvania. The road consisted of ten planes, five of which were on either side of the mountain and intervening levels. In 1835 the canal boats were so constructed that they could be taken in sections and hauled over the mountain on flat cars without disturbing their cargoes. The rails were secured to stone sleepers, twenty inches square, which were sunk in the ground.

On the Old Portage road the best time for the forty miles between Hollidaysburg and Johnstown was twelve hours. Express trains on the Pennsylvania railroad now run a closely parallel distance over the Allegheny mountains in a trifle over one hour. The passenger traffic on the road in those days was usually limited to one car each way a day, with a capacity of thirty passengers.

In 1854 the Pennsylvania Railroad company bought the Portage road from the state of Pennsylvania.—Chicago News.

PITH AND POINT.

Three-fourths of the things that are put off could be done at once.

If it is your praise a man is singing, it doesn't make any difference if he can carry the tune or not.

In looking back over his past every man must admit that the sun shone a great deal and that he made little hay.

Occasionally you find a man who enjoys staying at home so much that he will let his wife sweep all around him. The jolly blacksmith and jolly innkeeper belong to song and history, but they have got the blues since venturing into modern life.

In every small town there is some poor old failure of a man with a big family hanging on him of whom it is said, "He was considered a great catch when he was young."—Acheson Globe.

Do Animals Think?

The following facts, which I saw with my own eyes on repeated occasions, fully convinced me that animals have the powers of memory and thought. I once had a three parts bred black and tan terrier, which slept in a basket in my bedroom that opened into the nursery. One of my children was from ill health very fractious, and whenever Tiny heard it cry she would go into the nursery, hunt about until she found a squeaking rag doll, take it to the side of the cot and, sitting up, shake it to amuse the child. If in doing this she did not display powers of memory, thought and reflection I utterly fail to see to what her clever performance could be attributed.—London Globe.

Silver Thaw.

"Silver thaw" is a name applied to winter phenomenon of frequent occurrence at Ben Nevis observatory. It consists of rain falling when the air is below freezing point and congealing whenever it reaches the ground. Of course this points to an inversion of the temperature, which is lower on the mountain top than at greater heights, and, being largely associated with a cyclonic distribution of pressure, it is of considerable "forecasting" value.

Cautious.

Markley—I say, suppose you pay me back that 10 shillings you owe me now." Borroughs—Really, old man, I can't do that. Markley—But you've got it to spare today. Borroughs—I know, but there's no telling when I may need it.—London Telegraph.

Had His Own Troubles.

"Are you an advocate of woman's rights?" asked the woman with the square chin.

"Not me," answered the meek and lowly representative of the other sex. "Man's wrongs take up all my spare time."—Chicago News.

Information Bureau.

Holland—Hello, Jones! What do you think of this for weather? Jones—I'll tell you when I come back from the barber's. I am always sure to get full information on the subject from the man who shaves me.—Boston Transcript.

Looking Forward.

The Invalid—The doctor says I must not smoke or drink for a year. Friend—Oh, well, he knows you'll have to economize to meet his bill.—New York Press.

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Broad, New and Halsey Streets.
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Quality Better
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Our enormous assemblage of Spring and Summer Outergarments for Women, Young Girls and Children is a distinct innovation of exclusive models. The best minds of America and France contribute to the great charm and grace in our various garments.

Women's and Misses' Tailor-Made Suits.

The tailoring is as good as and has the appearance of a 25.00 garment; materials are fine herringbone serges, Panama cloths and panne chevots, in black, blue and brown, in the newest blouse and coat effect, variously trimmed, newest shaped sleeve and stylish skirt, misses' sizes, suitable for small women, 32 to 44, value 25.00, special

15.50

2 Elegant Groups in Women's and Misses' Skirts.

We have just received a large number of new and attractive models in round lengths, and will offer same at special prices.

Group 1—Handsome serges in plain and herringbone and fine Panama cloths, in black, navy and brown, in many plaited effects, regular 8.50. Special

5.00

Group 2—Superb Panama and Broadcloths, in black, navy and brown, also Small Plaids in green and blue effects, handsomely made and plaited, in many styles; regular value 11.50. Special

7.50

White Waists—White Sheer Lawn with fronts of allover embroidery and tucks, in a grand variety of patterns, value 2.75. Special

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Newest and Most Exclusive Ready-to-Wear Hats.

No other store shows the wide range of Trimmed Hats, from the ultra-picturesque to the plain and modest; the leading Paris, London and New York dashing styles, as well as the simple and refined.

We want the ladies to see our special new features in Ready-to-wear and Tailored Hats, perfect spring gems of the master milliner's art. We ask them, likewise, to look at our Famous 4.75 Trimmed Hat, that will be more in evidence at Easter than any other hat sold in Newark, because it looks to be double the price we charge for it. Others copy it right along, but they charge \$8 to \$10 for it. Our price is

4.75

Hahne & Co.'s Great Easter Display.

Benedict Bros.

NEW LOCATION.

Washington Life Insurance Building,
BROADWAY, Cor. LIBERTY ST.
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The Watch and Jewelry House of Benedict Bros. was established in Wall Street in 1819 by Samuel W. Benedict, the father of the present Benedict Bros., which makes it probably the oldest in their line in this country.

The present Benedict Bros. removed to the corner of Cortlandt Street in 1863. They have long desired to have larger and fire-proof quarters, and now have, they believe, the most attractive jewelry store in the United States, and perhaps in the world.

Their specialties are fine Watches, Diamonds and other Precious Gems.

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SEWER BIDS.

Borough of Glen Ridge.

Sealed proposals will be received by the Borough of Glen Ridge for the construction of an eight-inch earthen pipe sewer in the following streets in the Borough of Glen Ridge: 1st. Wildwood Terrace from the present sewer westerly toward Ridgewood Avenue to a point fifty-five feet from the place of beginning. 2nd. In Bloomfield Avenue from Highland Avenue to the Montclair and Glen Ridge line. 3d. In Park Avenue from a point sixty feet east of the middle of Ridgewood Road westerly to connect with the Bloomfield Avenue sewer. Said sewers shall be constructed under the direction of the Committee of the Council on Sewers and the borough engineer.

All bids must be made on blanks furnished by the Borough Clerk or Engineer, and such bids must be accompanied by a certified check for five per cent. of the cost of the work and for plans, profiles and specifications may be seen at the office of the Borough Clerk at Glen Ridge and at the office of P. W. Crane, Borough Engineer, in the Crane Building, Montclair. The Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids. All bids must be delivered to the Borough Clerk at eight o'clock P. M. on the 10th day of April, 1905, at the Council room in the fire house on Herman Street, Glen Ridge, N. J. CLARENCE PLACE, Borough Clerk.

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Perfect Fit and Workmanship Guaranteed.

Cleaning, Repairing and Pressing.

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290 GLENWOOD AVE.,
BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT.

Notice is hereby given that the accounts of the subscriber the surviving executor of the last will and testament of Sarah J. Demarest, deceased, will be audited and stated by the Surrogate and reported for settlement to the Orphans' Court of the County of Essex, on Saturday, the sixth day of May next. Dated March 20, 1905. JAMES G. DEMAREST, JOHN MONTAGNE, PROX.

